

Local Knowledge and Microidentities in the Imperial Greek World. Edited by TIM WHITMARSH. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge – New York 2010. ISBN 978-0-521-76146-8. XIII, 228 pp. GBP 55, USD 95.

Lokale Identität im Römischen Nahen Osten. Kontexte und Perspektiven. Erträge der Tagung "Lokale Identität im Römischen Nahen Osten", Münster 19.–21. April 2007. Herausgegeben von MICHAEL BLÖMER – MARGHERITA FACELLA – ENGELBERT WINTER. Oriens et Occidens 18. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2009. ISBN 978-3-515-09377-4. 340 S., 152 s/w Abb. EUR 64.

The two books under review here both have a title which will no doubt interest a number of students of the ancient world, especially those who deal with the Roman east. Both books seem to meet a certain demand, as it cannot have escaped anybody in this field that, in that last years, the history and the culture of the Greek-speaking part of the Roman empire has been the object of considerable attention.

However, there is something which may diminish somewhat the interest possibly stirred by the titles, namely the fact that we have here not books *by* someone, but *edited by* someone. When someone writes a monograph on a certain subject, the result may not be perfect, but at least the reader can expect that, whatever the subject, the author has tried to say whatever he or she is able to say on it, furnishing the whole with a conclusion and concluding with an index. With books *edited by* someone things are quite different, for although they, too, have a subject or at least a name which points to the conclusion that a particular book is meant to deal with a particular topic, the result is often a curious mixture of various contributions of varying length and quality which may illustrate some aspects of the same topic but which, taken together, do not seem to add up to a coherent study of the same. Moreover, even colloquia with a well defined subject sometimes seem to attract scholars more interested in just joining the colloquium than in its exact subject, as a result of which it is not that rare that one observes the publications of colloquia to contain contributions which do not seem to have much in common with the topic of the colloquium. Considering this, I must say that I am glad that, say, Mommsen, Norden and Syme decided to write their books themselves rather than inviting some colleagues and friends to contribute to colloquia on *Römisches Staatsrecht*, on *Antike Kunstprosa*, and on the *Roman Revolution*.

But of course there are also collections of articles which are useful, especially those which have a very clear focus and in which all contributors concentrate on the same subject. Both of the books under review here may well be placed in this category. Both represent the results of colloquia, the book on *Lokale Identität* from 2009 those of a colloquium in Münster in 2007, the volume on *Local Identities* in 2010 those of a conference in Exeter in 2004 (that it took six years to produce the printed volume does not seem to be explained anywhere).

The latter volume begins with the contribution on "Thinking Local" by T. Whitmarsh (the editor of the whole volume), an essay which seems at least partly to have been conceived as an introduction to the whole book. This is an impressive essay which abounds in interesting observations (e.g., imperial Greeks, by "doing culture", actually replicate (Roman) imperialist ideology, p. 9; and the Severans manipulating "localism" to their own ends, p. 11). This contribution is also remarkable for referring to a surprisingly large number of different persons called Clifford.

Then there is C. Ando on "Imperial Identities", an instructive contribution concentrating on Asia Minor (and constantly taking into consideration also pre-Roman Asia); the approach may seem somewhat theoretical at places and is in fact referred to as "Foucauldian" in n. 6, but those who might at first worry about this will, by the time they finish reading, have noted that this paper is illustrated with references to an impressive and interesting set of documents. Although all readers may not agree on all points made in this paper (e.g., p. 20, "I argue that Rome sought to sunder pre-existing patterns of social and economic conduct"), it cannot be denied that the paper contains a number of marvellous observations (e.g., p. 24, on Greek literature of the imperial period being "most obviously colonial" when lamenting past failures). However, as this is a paper of a more general nature, the main focus seems to be on the regional rather than on the strictly local.

S. Goldhill on "What is Local Identity" is based on literary sources, starting with classical Greek texts; much of this interesting article is based on a study of the use of the term ἐπιχώριος (note the observation on the difference in the use of this term in Thucydides and Herodotus on p. 51), especially in Pausanias.

With the exception of the contribution of G. Woolf, the rest of the articles deal with more specific subjects. I. Romeo's paper on Crete is called "Roman Perceptions of Cretan identity", but since there are not many sources for studying what the Romans thought about Crete and Cretan identity (and thus I wonder whether it can really be asserted, e.g., that, "with the reign of Trajan", there was "a panhellenic shift in Rome's perception of Crete", p. 76), much of the article seems to deal with Crete and Cretans themselves rather than just with Roman perceptions of the place. S. Mitchell's article, although called "The Ionians of Paphlagonia", in fact has much to say on Paphlagonia's relations with the Aegean Greek world in general. C. Jones' article on "Ancestors and Identity in the Roman Empire" is an interesting essay on the importance of mythical (e.g., Heracles in the case of Statilius Lamprias from Sparta, p. 124) and historical ancestors. M. Gleason deals with the "bicultural identity" of Herodes Atticus, whereas O. van Nijf studies the identity of the people (known from a remarkably large number of inscriptions) of Termessus in Pisidia, manifesting itself in various ways, e.g., in nomenclature. The volume ends with a shortish afterword, of a more theoretical nature, by G. Woolf on "The Local and the Global in the Graeco-Roman East".

The index struck me as pretty meagre and is in any case of the type where all kinds of items appear together (e.g., "Homer" is followed by "HSBC bank"). However, considering that the next volume has no index at all, one must be grateful for what we have here.

As for the German volume, this is a much more varied collection, which includes articles which some readers may consider as dealing only remotely with the Roman world, at least if the accent is on 'Roman'. Seeing that this volume concentrates not on the East in general, but on the Near East, it is understandable that there is less on ancient authors (but note the shortish essay by Millar on Libanius' views of the Near East) and more on archaeology and epigraphy.

The variation in the themes studied here is indeed remarkable, and I only point out only a number of articles which seemed to be of special interest from my own point of view. U. Hartmann studies the "oriental self-awareness" of the 13th Sibylline oracle (and incidentally provides German translations of many parts of it). In a substantial contribution, A. Kropp studies "Roman Imperial Cult among Near Eastern 'Client' Kings in the Julio-Claudian Period"; this paper is lavishly furnished by plans and illustrations. A. Lichtenberger surveys, on the basis of the numismatical evidence, the urban identities of Tyrus and Berytus in Phoenicia, observ-

ing, e.g., that in contrast to Berytus, emperors appear on the coinage of Tyrus only after it had become a colony under Severus. W. Oenbrink investigates the spectacular funerary monument known only from older descriptions, of AD 78/9 at Edessa and pertaining to a certain C. Iulius Samsigeramos also known as Seilas, the son of C. Iulius Alexion (not "Alexionus", as on p. 195; *IGLS* V 2212). Finally, a lengthy contribution of about 90 pages by O. Stoll is dedicated to Resaina and Singara in Syria, garrison cities of the Severan legions III Parthica (the assumption that the legion was based in Nisibis is rejected on p. 275) and I Parthica, respectively; in fact, much attention is accorded to the history of the legions themselves, with a significant number of inscriptions from all over the Roman world being cited.

To conclude, this is an interesting volume on an interesting subject. However, as mentioned earlier, there is no index at all, something which some readers may find unsatisfactory.

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IDA ÖSTENBERG: *Staging the World: Spoils, Captives and Representations in the Roman Triumphal Procession*. Oxford Studies in Ancient Culture and Representation. Oxford University Press, Oxford – New York 2009. ISBN 978-0-19-921597-3. XII, 327 pp. GBP 70, USD 129.

This is a revised version of the author's doctoral thesis defended at Lund University in 2003, and forms part of a recent flurry of investigations into the ancient Roman triumph (see, e.g., T. Itgenshorst, *Tota illa pompa: Der Triumph in der römischen Republik*, Göttingen 2005; M. Beard, *The Roman Triumph*, Cambridge, Mass., 2007; H. Krasser – D. Pausch – I. Petrovic (eds.), *Triplici invectus triumpho: Der römische Triumph in augusteischer Zeit*, Stuttgart 2008). It is important to emphasize, therefore, that this volume complements rather than repeats these earlier volumes and forms an important addition to our knowledge of this phenomenon. This is because the author is ruthless in her focus on her chosen topic – the contents of the first part of the triumphal procession preceding the *triumphator* himself – which she then investigates in exhaustive detail. The volume is divided into five chapters, the first being a relatively short introduction (pp. 1–18), and the final a somewhat longer summation and integration of its findings (pp. 262–92), but the heart of the volume consists of three long chapters whose titles repeat the contents and order of its subtitle. There follow a substantial bibliography (pp. 293–315) and a good index of people, places, and objects (pp. 317–27). Comprehension of the subject-matter is assisted by 27 well-chosen black-and-white figures dispersed at the relevant locations throughout the book.

The first chapter, "Introduction", divides into four sections wherein the author first situates her work within previous studies of the Roman triumph, then explains her intention "to look both at the form, meaning, and function of the single displays and at the syntax of the parade" (p. 9) within the theoretical framework of performance analysis, before finally explaining her methods and sources. She is very clear about what she will not be doing – examining the origin of the triumph, the role of the triumphator himself, the route of the triumph – and all those who seek information on these and similar matters must look elsewhere. She also sets the chronological limits of her study as the period from the early third century BC until the early second century AD. However, this does not deter her from reference to triumphs outside these limits where she thinks it relevant. The second chapter, "Spoils", divides into six sections